



LATEST TENDENCIES in HOME FURNISHINGS

By ADELE MENDEL.

HERE is no word in the English language that conveys more to us and appeals more to our sentimental emotions than the "home," whether it is a home simply furnished, or one furnished in the simplest fashion, still it is home. One that is surrounded by an atmosphere of cheer, refinement, hospitality and comfort is the ideal home. Different generations of Americans have passed through different phases of home furnishings, but this generation more than any other has learned to value the true value of home from every view point. As before careful consideration and has been given to the beautification of homes. A sense of fitness must always be a governing factor in the selection of furniture, but knowledge of various periods of furniture is most beneficial.

In connection with the study of the history of various countries, different characteristics of nations, the use of woods and fabrics and the uses that have been potent in the living of different periods of furniture is a strong wave of sentimentality at present for the antique in furniture. As there is not much antique furniture of real value which has not been already discovered by the lovers of "the old," it is to purchase a good reproduction of old piece than an old piece whose intrinsic value is its age.

The good outcome of this craze for the antique is that we have learned to stop long enough to ponder the showiest article isn't always the best. It has always inspired us to the desire to seek the better of furniture, to buy more substantial pieces, so that the furniture we purchase today may serve as heirlooms to our progenitors. Simplicity in ornament is high

art. Rather a few good pieces than an over-loaded place. We have survived the days of tawdry, elaborate parlor curtains, senseless pieces of furniture, so that the present is a far more cultured appearance than formerly. Nor can we incline to the crazy quilt effect with each piece upholstered differently, regardless of every other piece, we prefer to use a decorative scheme so that the whole effect will be one of harmonious blending of colors.

The walls are usually neutral in color with the rugs in harmony. The color note is brought out in the tapestries and upholstery. We also have escaped the monotonous one-color scheme where one shade, or different tones of one color was used as far as expedient to the elimination of every other color.

Mission furniture served a good purpose when it brought us back to a love for the simplicity in outline. When a piece of furniture of former elegance has outlived its usefulness, do not hesitate to discard it. A simple piece of furniture is far more suitable in any room than an elaborate piece which "has seen its best days."

The law of restraint is a good one to follow in furnishing a room. Do not buy too many pieces, and buy an article only in relation to other things you already possess. There is some wisdom in asking yourself the following questions when purchasing furniture: "Will it fit in with the other furnishings?" "Why do I wish this particular piece?" "Is it honest furniture, true in outline, design and construction?" After you have answered these questions satisfactorily you need not hesitate about purchasing the article.

Rapid transit has had a great influence on the furnishings of the home. There are so many radiating centers from which one can purchase good furniture that even the far-distant homes are furnished in the most up-to-date style.

As an English exterior is greatly favored in domestic architecture so the interiors are mostly along the lines of the old English periods. Colonial houses, of course, have Colonial interiors and Colonial furnishings. Bungalows stand in a class by themselves, but for a simple home a bungalow is a joy forever. Instead of the oft-repeated phrase "love in a cottage" we hear the expression, "love in a bungalow."

What is known as the arts and crafts furniture is especially suitable for use in the bungalow. There is a great preference shown in English style house for reproductions of the Jacobean period. Oak and mahogany furniture with cane insets are greatly used. The style originated in the Orient, but was taken up by the French designers of Louis XIV, XV and XVI periods. Nearly all the designs in Adams furniture have some style of cane in the construction.

With the knowledge that "too much fresh air is just enough," we have come to consider the sleeping and living porches as essential to the well built house. The larger porches are now constructed so that they can be used as living rooms, or sun parlors in the winter. Every spring there are welcome additions to the already large assortment of wicker, natural willow, painted willow, reed, Chinese sea grass and painted porch furniture. A grass rug or art square usually serves as the floor covering. Gay colored chintzes, or cretonne cushions make the chairs look all the more inviting. Wheel carts, lamps, serving tables, magazine stands, screens, porch swings and swinging couches are all made along lines which make them peculiarly adaptable for porch use.

A novelty in furniture for the bungalow comes in black and white, which has sort of a shadowy effect. The cretonnes with black backgrounds and gay splashes of old-fashioned flowers look extremely well on these chairs.

The living room should be what the name really infers, a livable room. It should be as spacious as possible so as to be a center for all the home enjoyment. An inviting, restful air should prevail. Careful attention should be given that the daylight is not obscured by heavy curtains and that the artificial illumination is such that the room is well lighted for reading and writing. A fireplace flanked by bookcases is one of the most decorative parts of the room. Don't hide the fireplace with a screen in summer, but rather bank the hearth with flowers and plants. Flowers are in place anywhere and everywhere.

Reproductions in all the old English period furniture is used in furnishing the living-room, and there are many new small necessary pieces of furniture offered which exactly match the larger pieces and serve a distinct purpose in the living-room, such as waste baskets, ash receiver stands, book stands, magazine racks and foot rests.

Hang the curtains as near the window shades as possible, and a little above the sills. Curtaining every window in the house with the same simple curtain material is a wise plan to follow. For the casement windows there is a special kind of casement cloth curtaining which is made to hang on rings, and takes the place of window shades. Panels of net with insertion are often used instead of the former full curtains, and in many cases the sheer curtain is dispensed with and soft silks, cretonnes, chintzes, taf-

fetas, new French warp printed linen and sun-proof materials are used which hang straight from the pole.

A house which was recently furnished had curtains throughout the house of French linen with a velvety effect printed in a glorious floral design and lined with white sateen. In winter the heavy velours and tapestries are preferable, but in spring and summer we prefer the cool looking cretonne and chintz coverings for the furniture to match the hangings. These materials come in designs which harmonize very well with the old period furniture.

DINING-ROOM.

The primary equipment for the room where the family assemble for meals should be a quiet, cheerful setting. Yellow, tan, old gold and blue tones are the best for this room. The choice of furniture is governed largely by the wood work of the room. Mahogany and oak in different finishes are usually chosen for the dining-room. For a colonial style room mahogany is invariably the wood preferred. For rooms with heavy oak wood work, furniture of a severe type is demanded, or if the woodwork has a rich dark finish, then Flemish oak is used. Sheraton and Jacobean reproductions of furniture are used in the dining rooms. Chinese decorative schemes are very effective for the dining-room. One room was effectively furnished in Chippendale furniture. The hangings were of a pale blue and gold Chinese Chippendale pattern. The rug was of Chinese design, though of domestic manufacture with blue and gold colors predominating. Quaint china in Chinese designs was selected for this

room. The center of the table had an embroidered linen square with the design brought out in the colors which predominated in the hangings and the rugs. The window curtains were of old gold soft silk.

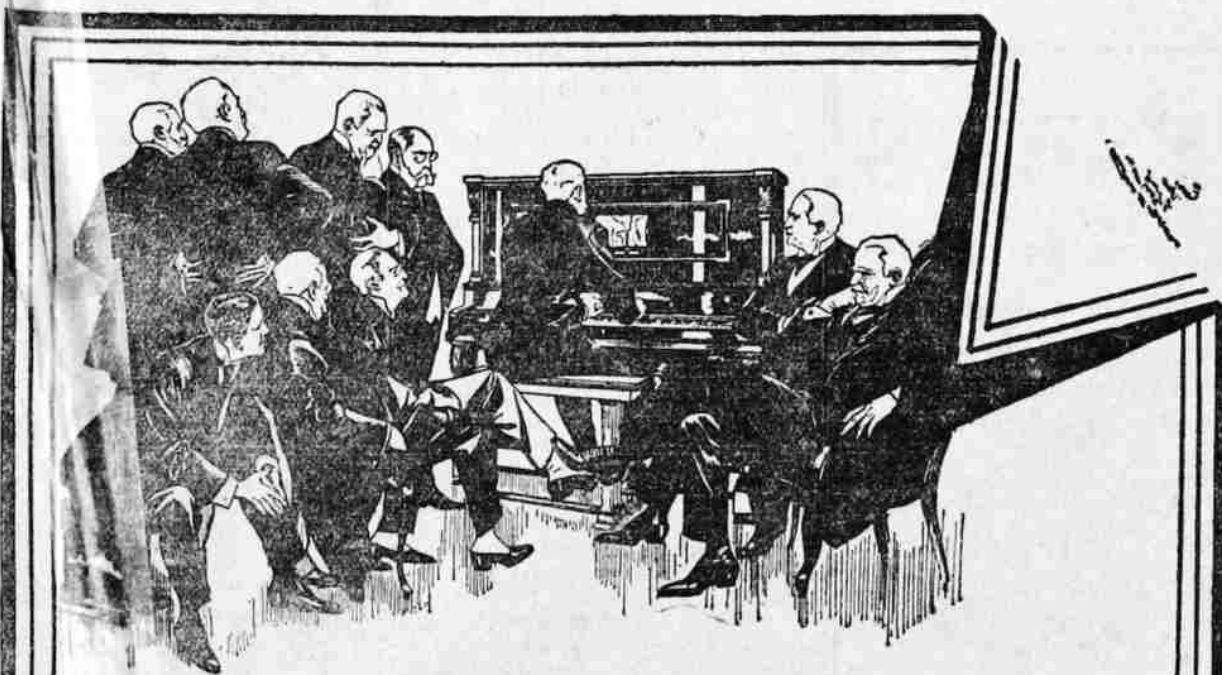
THE BEDROOMS.

Clumsiness and heavy effects should be avoided. We should try to make our bedrooms as light and airy as possible. We still cling to the Colonial or French and English periods in furnishing our bedrooms. Designs in Sheraton, Adams, Chippendale and Circassian walnut are all suitable for bedrooms. Enamel furniture in white ivory or colors with cane insets is possibly more favored than any other for bedrooms. There is something so attractive about enameled furniture that it will be long before its popularity begins to wane. One room furnished in ivory enamel and cane furniture had the walls of a pretty striped paper with a rose color border and the wood work of white enamel. The rug was a hand tufted one in shades of rose. The windows were covered with a dainty net curtain, and the side panels and valance over the curtains were of a wonderful flowered chintz in rose and blue coloring on a white

background lined in rose color. The wide built-in couch was piled with rose colored and chintz cushions. The bed cover and the cushions on the enameled chairs were of the same material as the draperies. In this room was a millinery stand of ivory enamel with chintz covered boxes, a sewing table, a waist box, a shoe box and a sewing table designed in the same manner, a bureau, a wonderfully convenient dressing table which held all the toilet articles and when closed resembled a cabinet, a chiffonier and a desk completed the set.

Birdseye maple also is desirable for bedroom furniture. Birdseye maple needs a certain degree of brightness to set off the beauty of the wood. Deep blue as a predominating color is the best background for the draperies. No degree of yellow or pink will give as friendly an atmosphere to the room furnished in maple as blue.

In bed rooms, with little expense, personal thought and artistic taste, very good effects can be obtained. A summer bed room hung simply with red and white checked gingham and furniture painted white, an inexpensive grass rug and wall pocket vases for fresh flowers were really effective in its charming simplicity.



A Directors Meeting Was

held at the home of the vice-president of a large railway corporation. After the business had been transacted, the host invited his guests to listen to some music. He sat down at his Weber "Pianola" player-piano and entertained them so that nine of the gentlemen then present have since purchased instruments precisely like the one they listened to. Men of large affairs play the "Pianola" because it is so beneficial to overwrought brains, for relaxation, for the pleasure that comes from personally producing the music that they listen to.

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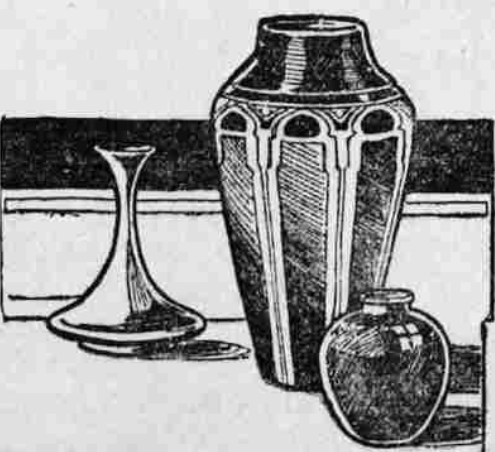
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